

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Frey: Bill To Allow Residents To Import Wine To Move Forward**



#### *Would Address Issues Raised By Recent Supreme Court Decision*

Hartford, CT-State Rep. John Frey, R-Ridgefield, today said that leaders of the Legislature's General Law Committee are working to craft legislation that will allow Connecticut residents to purchase wine from out-of-state wineries. The legislation will address issues raised by the recent U.S Supreme Court decision regarding the consumers.

On Monday, May 16, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot prohibit consumers from buying wine directly from out-of-state wineries. The court ruled that bans against direct sales unconstitutionally discriminate against interstate commerce. The decision was hailed as a victory for consumers and who have been prevented from purchasing wine shipped from out of state.

At the start of the 2005 Legislative Session, Rep. Frey introduced legislation (House Bill 5660) that would allow Connecticut residents to import wine from out of state. He noted that the General Law Committee also approved legislation designed to address these issues, anticipating the Supreme Court decision.

Senate Bill 122, An Act Concerning The Shipment Of Wine To State Residents, currently sits on the Senate calendar but is expected to be amended to address issues, including preventing underage drinkers from illegally purchasing alcohol from out of state, in the days before the Legislature adjourns on June 8.

"The outcome to the Supreme Court case was somewhat expected," said Rep. Frey. "It makes no sense to prohibit the purchase of a legal item from another state. There will likely be provisions to address illegal purchases by minors in the legislation that moves forward and by enacting it, we will ensure that Connecticut residents have the same privileges as those provided in other states."